Archie ADVENTURE SERIES

NO. 122 US $2.19

SEGA

SONIC™ THE HEDGEHOG

APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY

NACK IS BACK TO INTERRUPT SONIC'S LOVE TRIANGLE TROUBLE IN THREE TWO—

"Heart Held Hostage: PART ONE"

PLUS:

WHAT DOES AN ECHIDNA DO WITH HIMSELF "AFTERLIFE" IS OVER? FIND OUT IN OUR LATEST **KNUCKLES** CHAPTER

HOW DO A CYBERNETIC ECHIDNA AND A HIP-HOP CROC PUT PAST DIFFERENCES BEHIND THEM— **JULIE-SU** AND **VECTOR** HAVE THE ANSWER

DIRECT EDITION

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KARL BOLLERS & J. AXER
PRESENT
SONIC
THE HEDGEHOG
IN
"Heart Held Hostage"
part one
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INKER
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COLORIST
JEFF POWELL
LETTERER
J.F. GABRIE
EDITOR
VICTOR SORELICK
MANAGING EDITOR
RICHARD SOLOWATER
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
SPRINGTIME IN KNOTHOLE...
WRONG NOTE, SON.
SORRY, DAD!
GEE, MISTER HEDGEHOG, IF YOU KNOW SO MUCH ABOUT MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS...
...WHY DON'T YOU PLAY 'EM ANYMORE?
THESE ROBOTICIZED FINGERS AREN'T NEARLY NIMBLE ENOUGH TO PLUCK THOSE GUITAR STRINGS, TAILS...
...BUT I CAN STILL TEACH MY BOY HOW!

AND, AS THE BLUE BLUR CONTINUES TO PLAY VARIOUS CHORDS...
...MANY GATHER...
...AND A CROWD SOON FORMS AROUND THE HEDGEHOG FAMILY HUT.
AMONG WHICH ARE...
...SOME VERY FAMILIAR FACES.
HE'S A NATURAL BORN TALENT!
SO SUAVE... SO SKILLED... SO...
...SO SONIC!
WELL, MINA GIRL, HERE GOES NOTHING!

NOT FAR AWAY AT CASTLE ACORN...
HAVE A GOOD TIME WITH YOUR FRIENDS, SALLY, AND BE SURE TO BE HOME IN TIME FOR SUPPER.
AND, WHY NOT TAKE A ROYAL ESCORT, DEAR?

DON'T WORRY, MOM AND DAD...

...I WON'T BE NEEDING ONE.
WHAT? IS IT MY COLOGNE?

SOON...
THAT GUITAR RIFF. SO RAW... SO PASSIONATE ...SO SONIC!

AND THAT VOICE...
...IT'S BEAUTIFUL

LIKE AN ANGEL...
IT'S...

...MINA?! I...
...I NEED TO SIT DOWN.
HEY! THERE'S AUNT SALLY!
OH, OH, BUT ZEE PRINCESS EEZ PULLING ZEE ABOUT FACE!
BUT, WHY?
UHH... WHY DON'T YOU FELLAS STAY PUT!
THE TWO OF THEM...THEY SOUND ZEALLY AMAZING TOGETHER.
HEY, SALLY-GIRL!
BUNNIE?
IN THE FULL-BODIED FUR! WHERE YUH GOIN'? YUH LOOK LIKE SOMEBODY SHOT YER PAW!

VMMMMMMMMM
WHA—?

AWESOME!
YEAH!
FREEBIRD!

INCOMING!
KLUJO
UGGHH!
KLONG
OOOOF!

WELL, I GUESS THE VERDICT IS IN: NOT ONLY ARE YOU MOBIUS' NUMBER ONE HERO, YOU ALSO NAIL ON GUITAR!
YOU'RE NOT SO BAD YOURSELF!
WELL, I MAY NOT BE A FREEDOM FIGHTER...

KRUNCH
NOW THAT DIDN'T SOUND GOOD AT ALL!
S-SAY SONG... I-I WAS WONDERING...
WH?

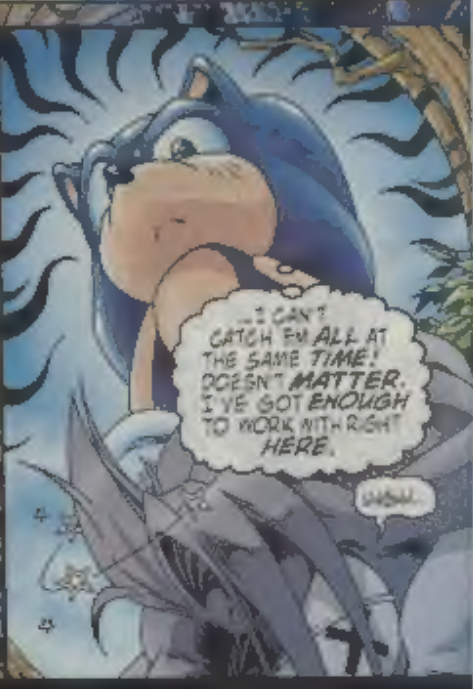
MOVE IT OR LOSE IT, CHUMPS!
NACK!
THE NEASEL.
NOTHING LIKE A GOOD GAME OF CHICKEN, HOG!
TOO BAD...
HE'S GOT SAL! SAL!!

KLUD
...YOU'RE NOTHING BUT A WEASEL, TURKEY GOBBLE, GOBBLE!
HEY YOU! STOP!
BLAM BLAM BLAM
BABE...

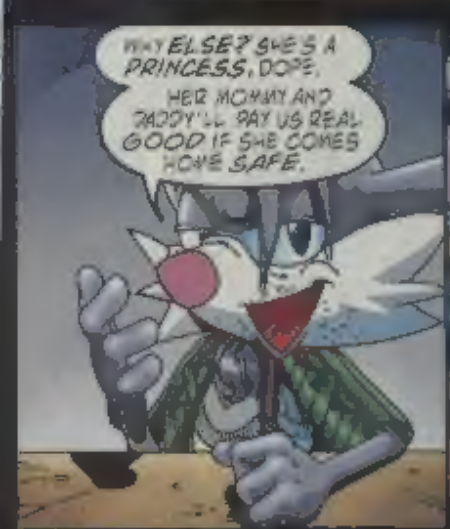
"...I WOULDN'T IF I COULD!"
VIP VIP VIP

SPAK
SPAK
SPAK
GET DOWN.

SSSSSSS
NO MATTER HOW FAST I AM...

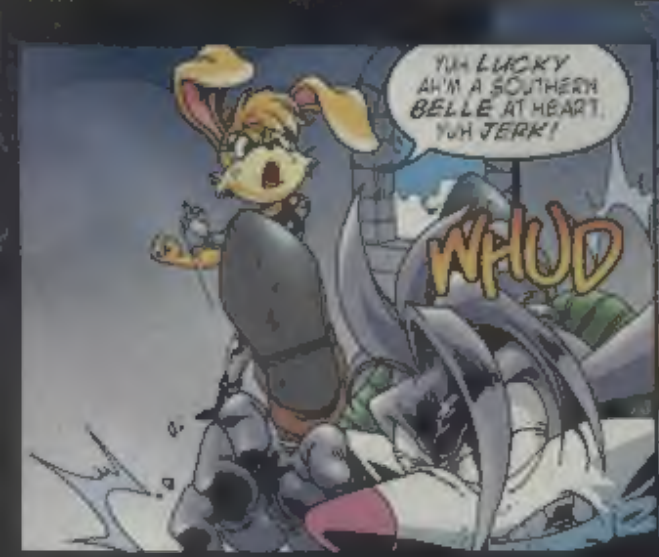

...I CAN'T CATCH 'EM ALL AT THE SAME TIME! DOESN'T MATTER. I'VE GOT ENOUGH TO WORK WITH RIGHT HERE.
UGH...

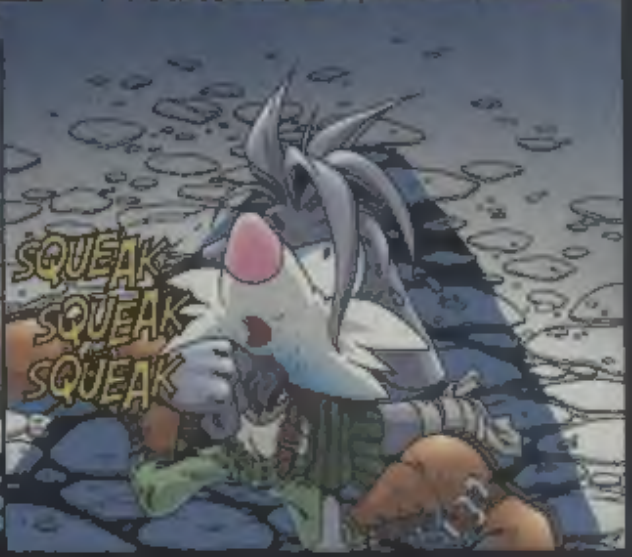
WHAM
WHY D YOU CREEPS KIDNAP HER?!


WHY ELSE? SHE'S A PRINCESS, DOPE. HER MOMMY AND DADDY'LL PAY US REAL GOOD IF SHE COMES HOME SAFE.

REAL WELL.
HUH?
YUH MEANT TO SAY "REAL WELL."

OOH OOH, M'SS BUNNIE RABBOT, PLEASE DON'T DROP ME FROM THIS WINDOW. I AM OH SO SCARED.
;Yawnn; CAN I GO NOW?


YUH LUCKY AH'M A SOUTHERN BELLE AT HEART, YUH JERK!
WHUD


SQUEAK
SQUEAK
SQUEAK

LEAVE
?
ENTER

KING MAX
LEAVE?
REASON
NINETY
EIGHTY
NINE DEGREE
MANSION
ANCESTORS
TALK
OFFER
REFUSE
HANDS ON
THIEVES
YOU

WHILE EVERYONE ON THE FLOATING ISLAND BELIEVES [illegible] HAS DIED, OUR FAVORITE ECHIDNA IS EXPERIENCING A DIFFERENT REALITY ALTOGETHER

AFTERLIFE

Part Two

WAIT!

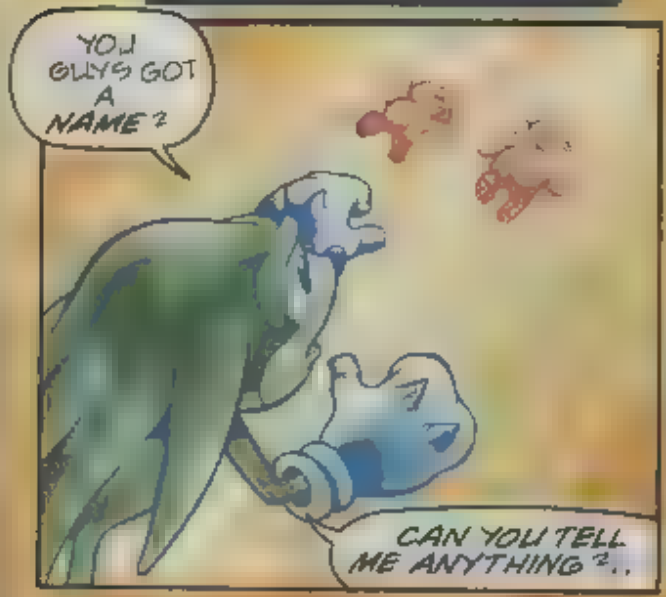
WHERE ARE YOU TAKING ME?.

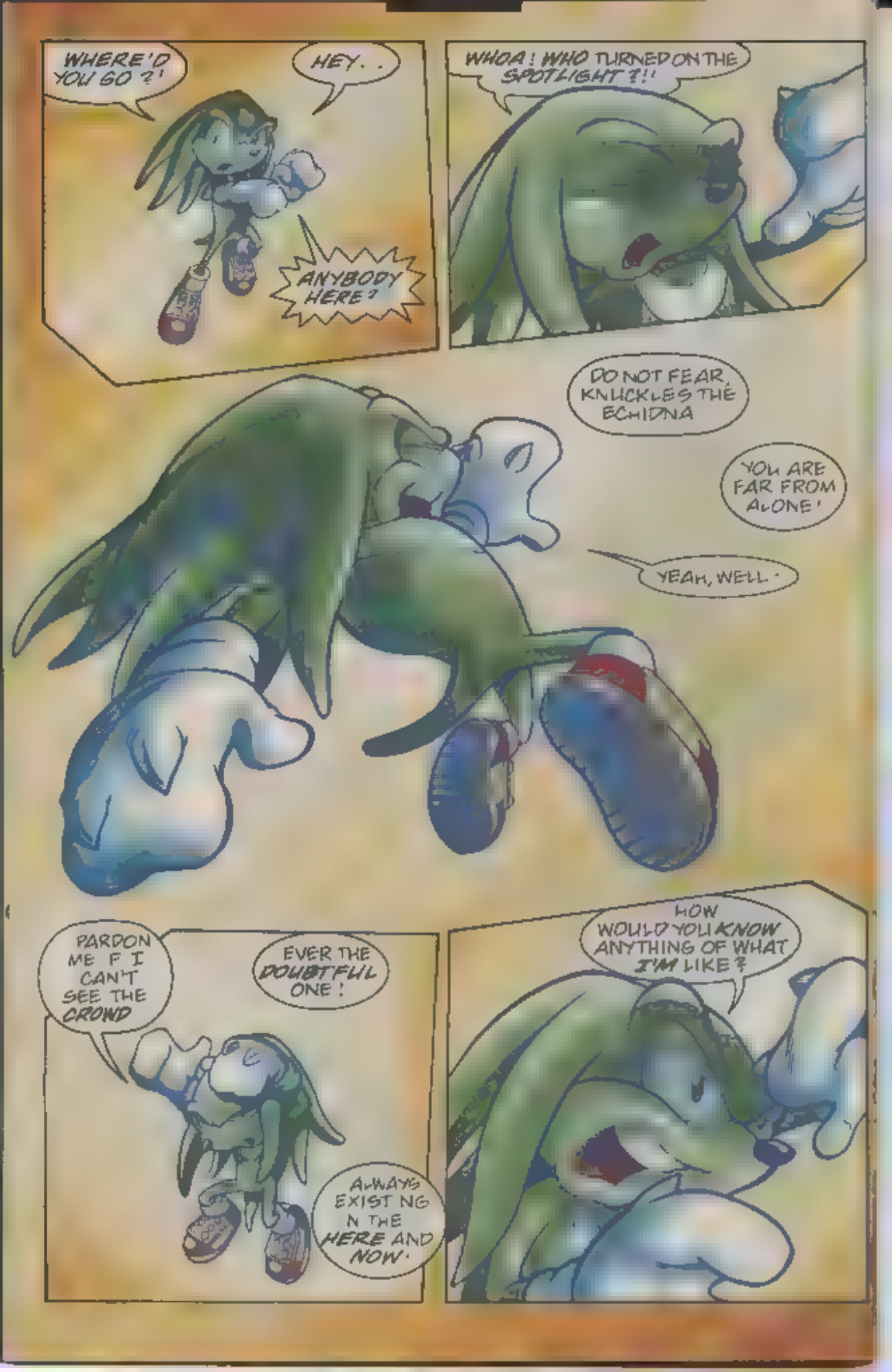
WHAT ABOUT THE OTHER GUARDIANS?.!

IN WHICH THE FOLLOWING INDIVIDUALS COMMEMORATE THE DEARLY DEPARTED

KEN PENDERS SCRIPT & INKS
ART MAWHINNEY PENCILS
[illegible] WILLIAMS LETTERER
J JENSEN COLORIST JUST N GABRIEL EDITOR

IN RECALLING THE LIFE AND TIMES OF SEGA'S EMBATTLED ECHIDNA!



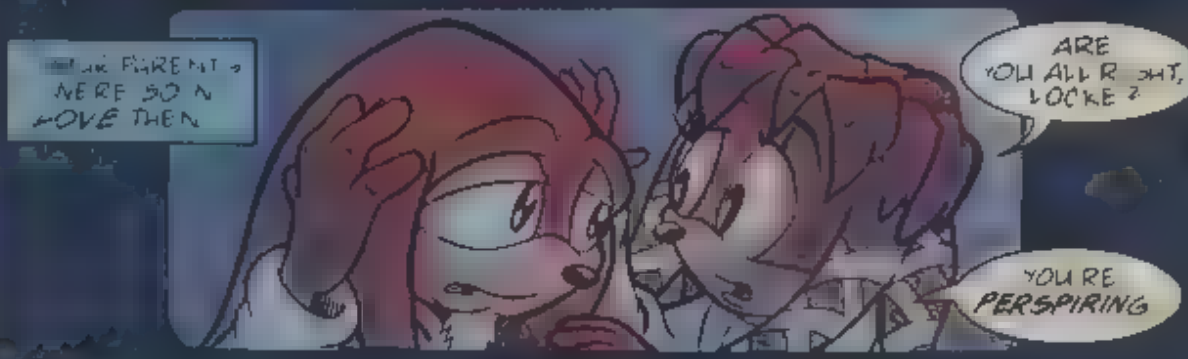

WHERE'D YOU GO ?!
HEY. .
ANYBODY HERE ?
WHOA ! WHO TURNED ON THE SPOTLIGHT ?!!
DO NOT FEAR, KNUCKLES THE ECHIDNA
YOU ARE FAR FROM ALONE !
YEAH, WELL ·
PARDON ME F I CAN'T SEE THE CROWD
EVER THE DOUBTFUL ONE !
ALWAYS EXIST NG N THE HERE AND NOW ·
HOW WOULD YOU KNOW ANYTHING OF WHAT I'M LIKE ?

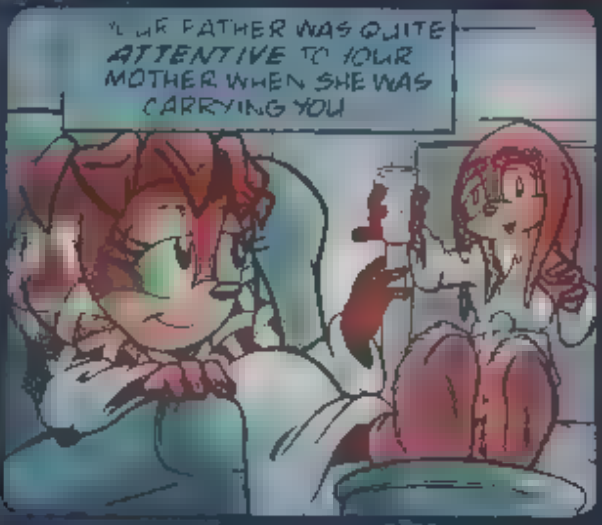
I KNOW EVERYTHING ABOUT YOU, KNUCKLES!
RIIIIGHUT!
LET ME GUESS YOU'RE ANOTHER RELATIVE NO ONE EVER TOLD ME ABOUT!
IN A MANNER OF SPEAKING!
I AM AURORA
BUT YOU'RE-- YOU RE-
AN ECHIDNA?
THIS IS WHAT YOU COMPREHEND SO THIS IS WHAT YOU PERCEIVE!
I AM OF THE FORCE AND THE FORCE IS ALL!
CHAMELEON, FOX, OVERLANDER, WHATEVER THE SPECIES--
--THEY SEE ME HOW THEY IMAGINE ME!
YOUR FATHER SAW ME IN A DREAM!
LIKE THIS?
ONE NIGHT WHEN YOUR FATHER WAS DEEP INTO HIS SLUMBER I CAME TO HIM AS A VISION OF ARMAGEDDON

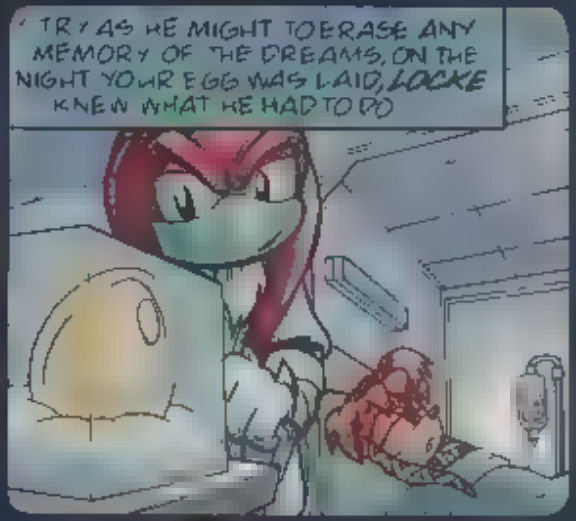
WHERE HE SAW A MONSTER BENT ON DESTRUCTION..

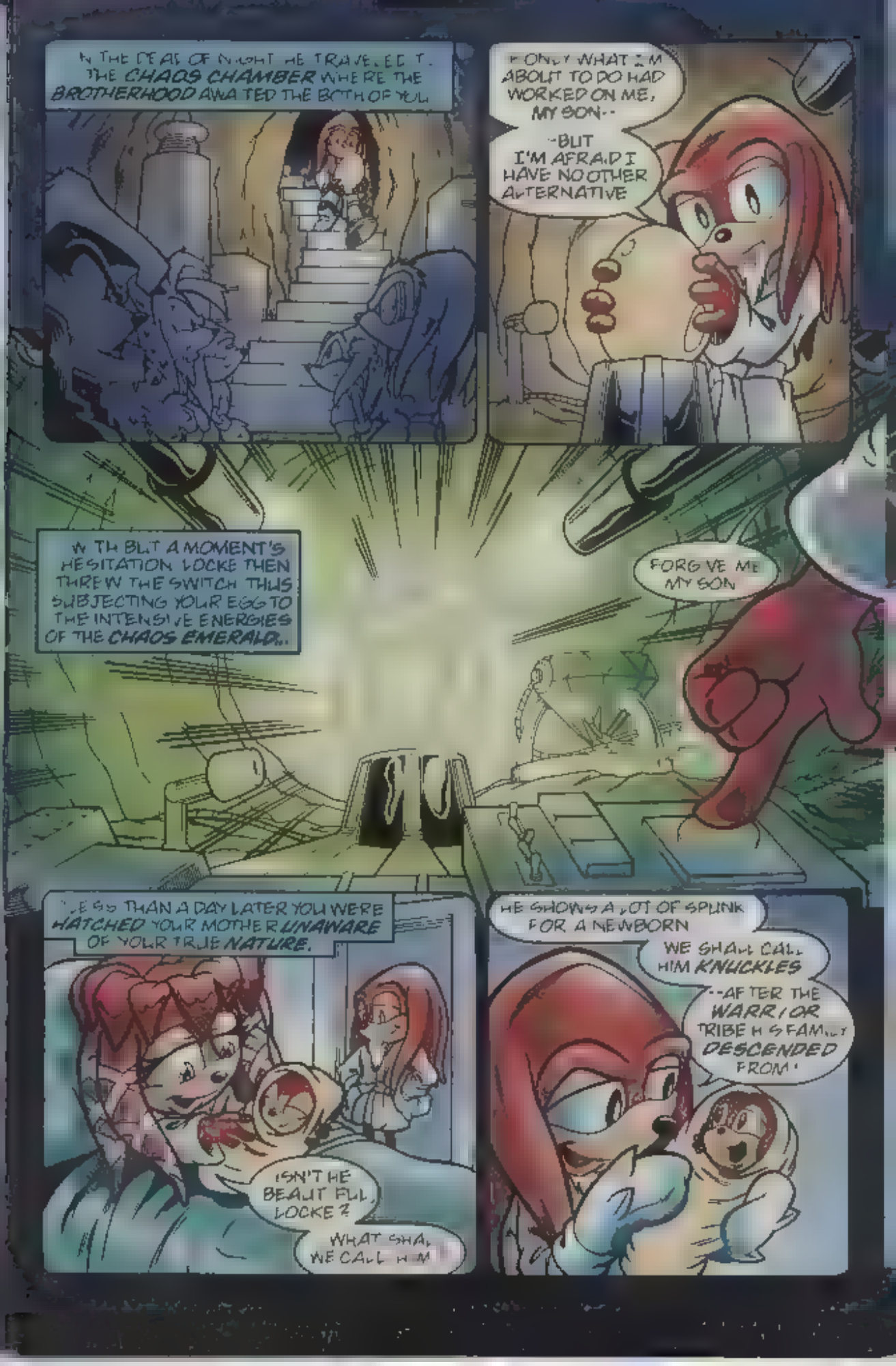
AND SALVATION IN THE FORM OF HIS ONLY SON!

LOCKE
WHAT SET HONE 12


YOUR PARENTS WERE SO IN LOVE THEN
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT, LOCKE?
YOU'RE PERSPIRING


YOUR FATHER WAS QUITE ATTENTIVE TO YOUR MOTHER WHEN SHE WAS CARRYING YOU

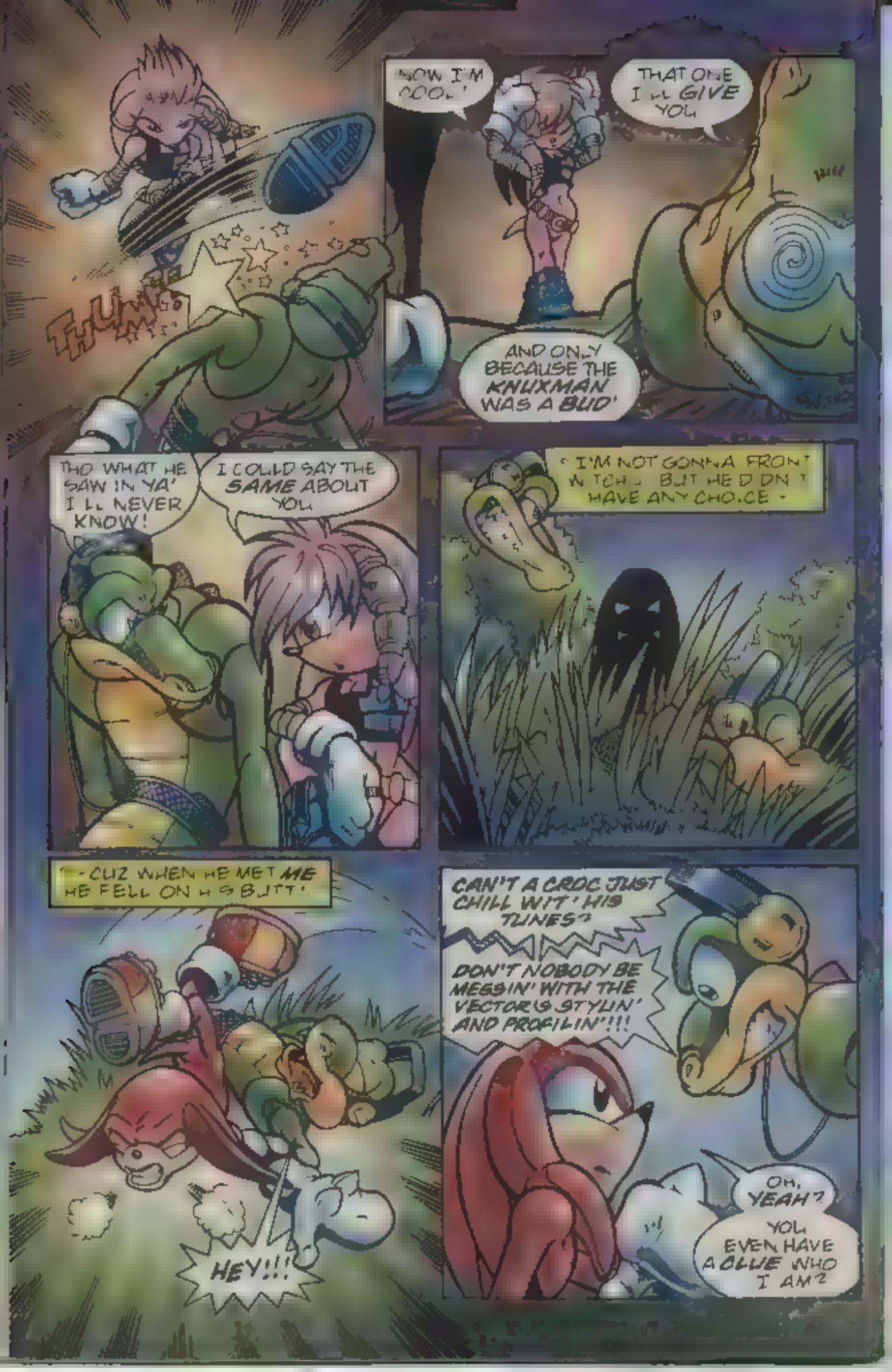

TRY AS HE MIGHT TO ERASE ANY MEMORY OF THE DREAMS, ON THE NIGHT YOUR EGG WAS LAID, LOCKE KNEW WHAT HE HAD TO DO


IN THE DEAD OF NIGHT HE TRAVELED TO THE CHAOS CHAMBER WHERE THE BROTHERHOOD AWAITED THE BOTH OF YOU.
IF ONLY WHAT I'M ABOUT TO DO HAD WORKED ON ME, MY SON--
--BUT I'M AFRAID I HAVE NO OTHER ALTERNATIVE
WITH BUT A MOMENT'S HESITATION LOCKE THEN THREW THE SWITCH THUS SUBJECTING YOUR EGG TO THE INTENSIVE ENERGIES OF THE CHAOS EMERALD..
FORGIVE ME MY SON
LESS THAN A DAY LATER YOU WERE HATCHED YOUR MOTHER UNAWARE OF YOUR TRUE NATURE.
ISN'T HE BEAUTIFUL, LOCKE?
WHAT SHALL WE CALL HIM
HE SHOWS A LOT OF SPUNK FOR A NEWBORN
WE SHALL CALL HIM KNUCKLES
--AFTER THE WARRIOR TRIBE HIS FAMILY DESCENDED FROM!

YOUR BOY DEVELOPED MORE RAPIDLY THAN YOUR AVERAGE ECHIDNA
"...PROMPTING CONCERN FROM YOUR MOTHER
WHEN SHE FINALLY GAVE JOY TO BRING YOUR THIRD BIRTHDAY..."
TODAY HE PLAYS TOMORROW HE LEARNS!
HE IS JUST A BOY LOCKE
LEAVE HIM BE
HE IS A GUARDIAN-TO BE LARA-LE.
THERE'S MUCH TO BE TAUGHT!
OTHER CHILDREN DON'T START SCHOOL UNTIL THEY'RE AT LEAST A YEAR OLDER!
KNUCKLES IS NOT LIKE OTHER CHILDREN
HIS DESTINY HAS BEEN PRE-ORDAINED!
DURING THE NEXT YEAR, LARA-LE AND LOCKE WOULD BATTLE CONSTANTLY OVER YOU
EVENTUALLY YOUR MOTHER BOWED TO THE INEVITABLE!
AS SOON AS THE DIVORCE WAS FINALIZED, LOCKE RELOCATED BACK TO THE FLOATING ISLAND WITH YOU AT HIS SIDE!
SO, THEN WHAT?
BE HERE NEXT ISSUE TO FIND OUT

KNUCKLES
NOW AS SHE SURVEYS ALL THAT REMAINS SHE CONTEMPLATES HER RELATIONSHIP WITH HER CLOSEST FRIEND.
ALL THE TIME I EVER SAW KNUCKLES--
-- AND NOT ONCE DID I EVER IMAGINE HE LIKED TO READ
SHOWS WHAT I KNOW
WHEN THERE WAS
WITH THE USUAL GANG
WHAT REALLY GETS ME IS THAT
KNOWING I MATTERED TO HIM.
--BUT NOT KNOWING HOW MUCH UNTIL IT'S TOO LATE.
HUH?!!
WHAT CHU' THINK YOU'RE DOIN INSIDE THE MAN'S CRIB?

GET A GRIP VECTOR
IF YOU THINK FOR ONE MOMENT I AM GOING TO PUT UP WITH YOUR GARBAGE
YOU'RE GOING TO BE ONE SORRY CROC
SEE? WHO? YOU?
BAT
YOU
BAAAM!
YOU OKAY BABE?
I DIDN'T MEAN TO BLAST YA SO HARD


THUMP
NOW I'M COOL!
THAT ONE I'LL GIVE YOU
AND ONLY BECAUSE THE KNUXMAN WAS A BUD!
THO WHAT HE SAW IN YA' I'LL NEVER KNOW!
I COULD SAY THE SAME ABOUT YOU
"I'M NOT GONNA FRONT WITCHU, BUT HE DIDN'T HAVE ANY CHOICE."
"CUZ WHEN HE MET ME HE FELL ON HIS BUTT!"
HEY!!!
CAN'T A CROC JUST CHILL WIT' HIS TUNES?
DON'T NOBODY BE MESSIN' WITH THE VECTOR'S STYLIN' AND PROFILIN'!!!
OH, YEAH?
YOU EVEN HAVE A CLUE WHO I AM?

DON'T MATTER WHO YOU ARE, CUZ -
NOT EVERYONE CAN FLOSS WITH ME
YEAH BUT?
WELL, I'M KNUCKLES--
- AND I TAKE CARE OF THINGS AROUND HERE!
WHAT?
YOURSELF?
OOOOOOOOO THAT'S GOTTA HURT!
NOW GO RUNNIN' BACK TO YOUR MOMMY AND DADDY
I'LL GIVE THAT ONE TO YOU. I WASN'T EXPECTING IT
BUT THAT FREEBIE IS ALL YOU'RE GONNA GET
THIS BOY'S NOBODY'S SUCKER TWICE IN A ROW
DIG?
KHAAAAAM!

NOT THE SNOUT, BRO
OOW!! THAT REALLY HURTS!
AWWW - YOU'RE BREAK'IN' MY HEART!
NOW-
-- WE CAN SQUASH T RIGHT HERE
OR WE CAN MIX IT UP AGAIN.
HEY! I JUST WANT TO LISTEN TO MY TUNES, MAN
ALL RIGHT, THEN WE'RE COOL, SO HOW'D YOU GET HERE?
YOU'RE THE FIRST LIVE BODY I'VE BUMPED INTO--
YEAH! A PLANE LOAD OF US WERE AIR-LIFTED FROM DOWN BELOW WHEN SOME FREAKER STARTED MESS'N' THINGS UP--!
-SINCE MY DAD AND I RETURNED TO THE FLOATING ISLAND
WHERE YOU BEEN, BOY?
THERE'S A BUNCHA DUDES AND BABES DOWN THAT WAY!
REALLY? NO KIDDING?
-BUT, SIR, THE WHOLE LOT OF THEM ARE GETT'NG AWAY
NOT FOR LONG CRABMEAT!
NO ONE CAN EVER ESCAPE THE WRATH OF DR ROBOTNIK!
INCLUDING HIM
THAT'S MISTER CATWEAZLE TO YOU VECTOR

AND DON'T-OU! FORGET T
PLOP!
HEY!!
PLEASED TO MEET YOU, AS WELL!
LIKEWISE
HEY MAN
HOW ABOUT A TOWEL?
...AND KNUX AND I HAVE BEEN BEST BUDS EVER SINCE!
YOU'RE MORE MOUTH THAN FIGHTER, Y'KNOW THAT?
THAT'S YOUR CAKE
YEAH BUT IT DOESN'T DO WONDERS FOR THE REP TO LET THAT GET AROUND
THEN I'LL BE OUR SECRET VECTOR!
HE'D WANT IT THAT WAY!
YEAH, ABOUT KNUX. SEEIN' YOU IN HIS STUFF-- THAT'S WHY I GOT ALL UP IN YOUR GRILL!
I WAS TOO UPSET AFTER THE-- THE-- (SNIFFLE)
I KNOW!
I GUESS DESPITE ALL OUR DIFFERENCES, THAT'S THE ONLY THING YOU AND I HAVE IN COMMON (SNIFFLE)
WE BOTH LOVED HIM DEARLY AND WE'LL MISS HIM TOGETHER

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SONIC-GRAMS

Off Panel

BY GALLAGHER & RIBEIRO

THIS JUST IN!

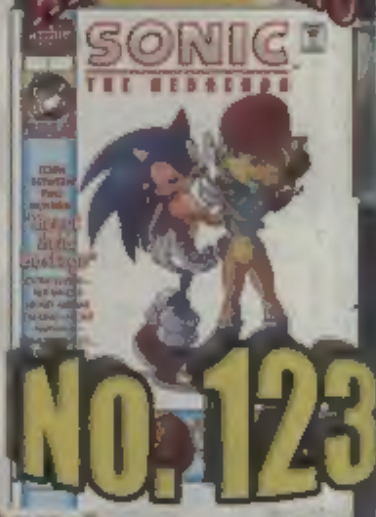
Hey Sonic Fans:

Justin here with the latest. Well, we've been getting a lot of buzz about this two-parter Sonic/Sally/Mina storyline. In fact, Sally supporters and Mina's fans have been having a war of words with each other. They both want their gal to end up with Sonic. Surprisingly, the vote between the two is running neck and neck. Of course, their fate has already been decided and will be revealed to you in "Heart Held Hostage, Part 2" next issue. On another front, only two issues left before Sonic and the Freedom Fighters face their most dangerous situation yet. SONIC THE HEDGEHOG #125 is starting to shape up to be one of the best issues I've ever had the pleasure of editing and art directing. Also, the biggest news about the issue is that Yuji Naka, the man who created every single Sonic videogame we've ever played, is writing a special message for the issue. It is truly an honor to have Naka-san grace our pages. I can't wait for you guys to read SONIC THE HEDGEHOG #125, but until then, let's find out what you think of the issues you have read. So without further ado, I give the floor over to Ken Penders with your letters. May the Force be with you!

Jg

As the countdown continues to our 125th issue, not only has it been tough trying to keep topping ourselves issue after issue, but it's getting tougher than ever figuring out which letters make the cut. Not only are more of you writing than ever before, but you're writing a lot more thoughtful commentary in addition to al the questions. To add further to our burden, we're hearing from our international fans in ever-increasing numbers as well, as we start off with this entry from across the Atlantic...

COMING ATTRACTIONS



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P.O. Box #419
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Note: Due to the overwhelming amount of e-mail and snail mail, it is impossible for us to reply personally to each and every message. However, your opinions are important to us and each message will be read. Also, due to space limitations, some correspondence may be edited. ***Thanks for understanding!***

WITH THE [illegible], HOW ABOUT WE CHECK OUT WHAT YOU GUYS HAD TO SAY IN REGARDS TO OUR LATEST ISSUES:

Dear Sonic-Grams,

First of all I'd like to say I've been a fan of your comics for years (I'm a big Sonic fan!), and the latest issue I got was 120, and it rules! 'She's Gotta' Have Him' - personally, Mina's one of my favourite characters... can't wait 'til I see "Songbird" next issue... and Prince Elias' return. 'The Royal Signet' was great... and the Knuckles story ruled! Although, I'd really like to see Knuckles make a comeback of sorts... I hope he does!

The art by J. Axer looked cool in the first panel of 'She's Gotta' Have Him' was cool! I'm a bit of an artist myself (more like a wanna'-be artist), so I've submitted a picture to you guys of Sonia from Sonic Underground that I did on my computer, hoping it'll be featured in the fan art corner!

Speaking of the Sonic Underground... ever thinking of featuring Sonia and Manic in a story again? I love those guys - Manic's one of my favourite Sonic characters!

That's all for now - catch ya' on the flip side!
Laurie Durham-Muir, Age 14, Glasgow, Scotland, UK

While Sonic Underground isn't part of our continuity, you'll be hearing the names Sonia and Manic in upcoming issues. When or how will be a surprise you won't want to miss. And don't worry about Knuckles. While he may be going through quite a life-changing process at the moment, it's hard to keep a good echidna down.

Hello sir,

I've started collecting your comics about a year ago and I've collected at least 24 issues from #92 or so, but I have a few comments and questions.

1. I love your plot in Sonic the Hedgehog! It flows smoothly with each issue and explains little by little all the things I don't know!
2. Where were Elias and Queen Alicia before they were found by Knuckles' father?
3. Mr. Mawhinney does a great job and has the best emotions (like Abe Flower said in issue #120), but it seems all too classic and disordered. A short-legged Sonic with long spines? I don't know about you but I think it seems a little outta' placed there. If he wants it to be a little like the classic Sonic, make it classic. If he wants it to be more modern, make it modern! Please, don't take it personally.
4. I saw the "Knuckles" comic in a K-mart when I was around 6 or so. What happened to the series?
5. Where the heck did Mina come from? it seems like she just popped outta' nowhere!

Well, that's about it! Have a nice day and "Keep on juicin'!" Jabba_Wooki signing off.
Jonathan Lee, 12, Seoul, Korea

Another nation not heard from before. Welcome aboard, Jonathan, and glad to hear you're enjoying our adventures. In quick succession: We try to present as much information as we can in any given issue so as to allow any new readers to jump on board; Elias and Queen Alicia lived in Haven during the early days after arriving on the Floating Island, the details of which can be found in SONIC #64 and KNUCKLES #19 through 21; We can see where you're coming from regarding your comments on Art's version, but that's through no fault of his own, and we here at Archie can't say enough about how great we think his work his; the Knuckles series was victim of the market conditions at the time unfortunately; and Mina's been around since SONIC #76.

Dear Sonic-Grams,

I have been a huge fan of everyone's fave blue hedgehog for a long time now. But unfortunately I live in the UK so your Archie comics are quite hard to get hold of. But I have known Archie Sonic comics for a very long time and just recently actually purchased #118 and it was a great story to pick up on. Knuckles' death was very well done and couldn't have been done better. I love the art used in this comic.

I've just read #120, and for the first time I saw Mina Mongoose and I don't mind this character actually being new to me. In the UK, Fleetway Sonic comics ended some while ago, so I was itching for more Sonic (of course). I'd say you couldn't beat the Blue Blur but Shadow is one of my fave hedgehogs (where does Shadow appear in the Archie version, in a special?). I'm such a fan I even have the limited edition signed Yuji Naka DC.

I've read your up-coming preview of #, 121, 122, 123, and I wish you good luck on that huge project.

So if you do stick this in Sonic-Grams I'd be very pleased seeing as I am from the UK.
Blade Liger, UK.

Blade, Shadow initially appeared in SONIC #98, but not in the form in which you know him, 'cause even we didn't know what he looked like at the time. I suspect that you and everyone else that have been clamoring to see more of him will some get their wish in spades.

Hi.

In case you remember me (I hope not; I haven't written for years and that would be scary) I'm the one who wrote 4-6 letters with 100s of questions, and obviously they were never printed, but one of them was sort of answered in the comic, so it's cool. Any-who, my first issue was #28 and I've managed to collect all the rest since. And I have this to say: YOU ARE AWESOME! Lately, I think your comic could use some improvement, and I feel it is my duty to save you from any further erosion before it is too late. I have a few suggestions to make:

Spaz is your best artist. I suggest you feature his work on more stories.

A more practical suggestion would be to loose the 3-story theme except for on occasion. People are getting lost with all the characters you're shuffling around (not me of course) and it takes away from the guys of the other two. Try having even just 1 per book sometimes. Your best era was between around 38 to around 60. Try to see what you did differently since then.

Shadow in a future issue- Whoaaa??? Have you not played Sonic Adventure 2? If you have, please explain (if not at first, then later) how he is still alive. To be honest, E-102 has more reason to appear than Shadow. At least he had a little piece in Sonic Shuffle.

As far as the Anime thing with the art is concerned, I think it's fine so long as you remember what your characters actually used to look like.

Ah, that magazine thing you're doing with your comic- loose it. It just looks stupid. You go on and on about how Sonic is the first video game character to have made this many issues and then you do this. People who see the comic will never take you seriously.

Sorry to have kept you from your, um, whatever it is that you do for so long. I know if this ever is printed there will be serious edits for space (as well as the whole plot section taken out). So, keep on Trekking! Oh wait- you're a Star Wars fan.
Dr. Chen

That's Justin, Karl and most of the artists, Doc. I'm a Trekker down to the bone, having grown up with Kirk and Spock. And, yeah, I had to whittle your letter down to let others get a word in edgewise, but you'll have to agree your overall point was made. It's opinions such as yours that help us keep on track making our series better all the time and hope to hear again from you on whether or not you agree with that assessment. As for Shadow, SONIC THE HEDGEHOG #124 will explain how Shadow survived his apparent demise at the end of the SONIC ADVENTURE 2 game.

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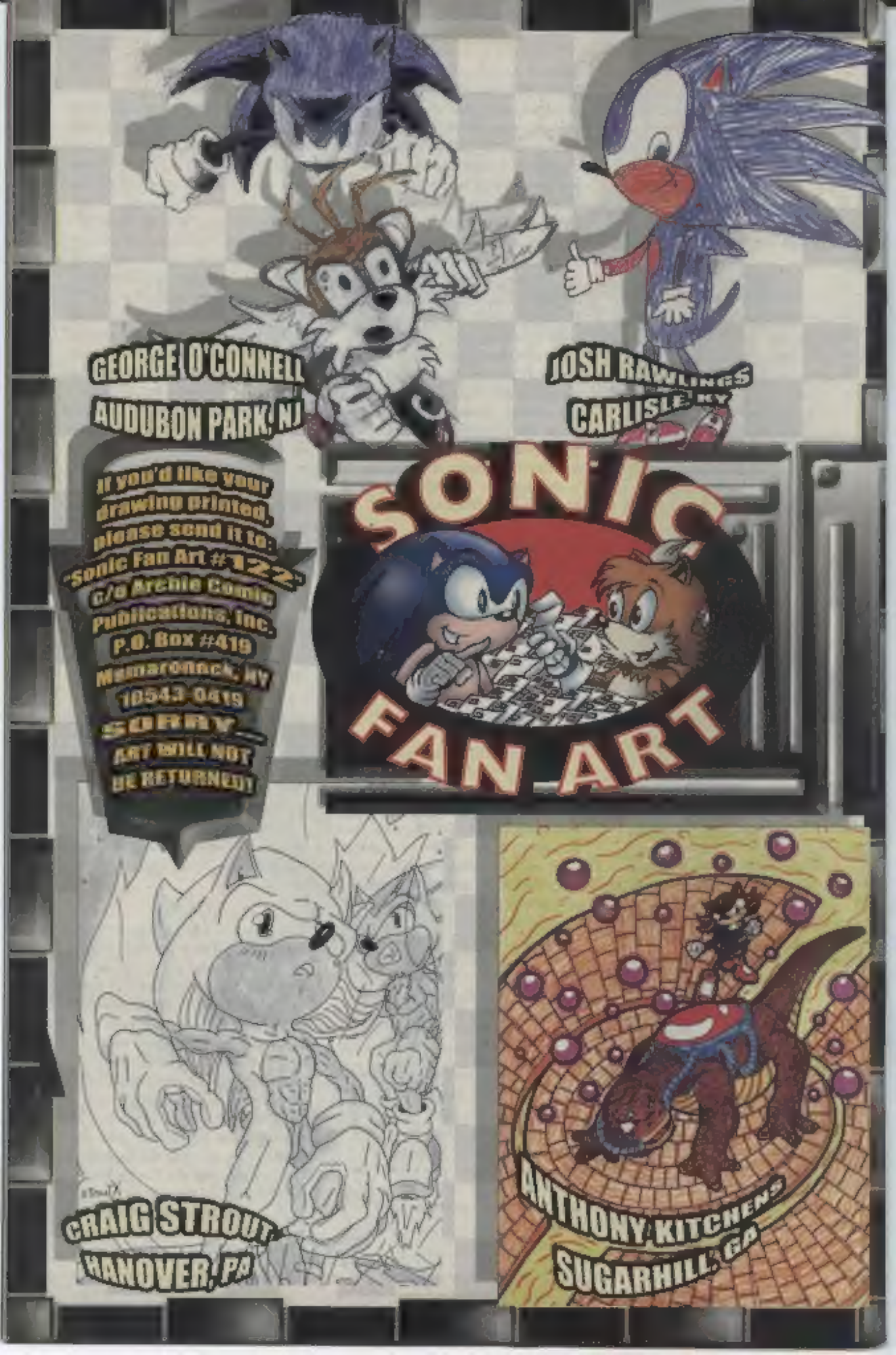
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